

Thursday

Discover the people of the world

Reflect : The eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have galvanized unprecedented efforts to meet the needs of the world's poorest. MU has representatives at the UN and addresses issues concerning families and women. We cannot read the Beatitudes without feeling stirred to be instruments of peace and understanding of others.

Read : Matthew 5 . 1 - 12

Pray : for the many who come to our shores seeking asylum and our attitude and response to them. Prayer of the week

Action : Find out more about a country which features in the news either because of natural disaster or political conflict.

Friday

Discover the environment

Reflect : Conservationists, farmers, gardeners, bushwalkers, holidaymakers all have a love of this land of ours.

Read : Psalm 8

Pray : MU Service book Liturgy Form 3 "The World Around Us."

Action : consider giving a donation from your diocesan or branch MU to an environmental organisation

Saturday

Discover and celebrate Mothers' Union worldwide

Reflect : Relationship building, strengthening, supporting, encouraging and healing lies at the heart of what we do in MU throughout the world. This is God's mission reflecting the very nature of the Holy Trinity.

Read : Matthew 25 34 - 40

Pray : We thank you God for every blessing bestowed upon Mothers' Union in all the world; for strength of fellowship, renewal of vitality and joy of service; and we humbly pray that these gifts may, by your grace, be used to your glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen



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Dear Friends,

I write this leaflet pre-Lent and it comes to you for Easter. In the Christian life it is quite a distance between those two seasons. The disciplined life of Lent helps us to discover more about our inner selves and leads us to celebrate the truth of what Easter Resurrection means for the whole of life. It is one thing to tell of the events of Christ's death and resurrection, quite another to fathom their depths and to make it present as we go about daily life. As human beings we live between our desire to understand and explain events and our need for and celebration of mystery. Both discovery and celebration must be central in our lives.

This is what we as MU in Australia are keeping before us in all aspects of our love and service this year. We pray for God's grace as we do.

Peace and blessing,

Bronwyn

Prayer of the week

Almighty God, give us grace to search for you and to find you in our midst. Open our eyes to see you in the world around us, the events of our lives and the people whom we meet. Open our hearts to celebrate your risen, ascended and glorified life in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Sunday

Celebrate resurrection

Reflect : Recently in Jerusalem at the Church of the Resurrection I was 'bowled over' by the marvellous representation of Jesus above the door to the place of the tomb. He is vigorously leaping into life. "Alleluia! Jesus is Risen, he is not here".

Read : John 11. 25-26

Pray : that the amazing vitality and deep joy of the Resurrection is evident in the way we live Prayer of the week

Action : be alert to signs of Resurrection around you.

Monday

Discover our inner life

Reflect : There is knowledge which only comes through breaking, facing the reality that is ourselves and knowing the Lord. We all know of times which are not simply about our brokenness but about "being broken". The death of a loved one, the loss of a dream, economic hardship. "*Jesus can only be seen as the divine and glorified one by those who are also able to discover him first as the wounded one.*" [Lambeth 'I am' Bible studies] Silence and stilling our thoughts as well as our speech helps us to discover our true selves.

Read : Luke 24. 13 – 32

Pray : for those facing the death of a loved one

■ for those facing the loss of a dream

■ for those facing the loss of a job, or a home

Prayer of the week

Action : add a short time of silence to one of your times of prayer this week. Make this a habit!

Tuesday

Celebrate our families

Reflect : The purpose of MU is to celebrate and to support family life. Recent research shows that the family is the most important component of well-being for children. Their greatest need is to have caring, loving relationships and spend time with their family. and with friends

Read : Psalm 127

Pray : for our own families

for families we support through our MU branches

for families we support through our O/NO projects

Prayer of the week

Action : plan to have coffee with a nearby family member you haven't seen for a while.

Wednesday

Celebrate our friends

Reflect : Isn't it a joy to have time with a friend? A good friend is someone who is genuinely interested in us. Friendships need to be nurtured by being in touch.

Read : Proverbs 17 : 17 Or Sirach 6 : 14 -16

Pray : for your friends near and far

for thoughtfulness to be a good friend to others

Prayer of the week

Action : Get in touch with a friend whom you do not see often.